

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF:

CONFIRMATION NO. 1543

Ian M. Bennett

DOCKET: PHO99004CIP

APPLICATION NO.: 10/653,039

EXAMINER: LERNER, M.

FILING DATE: August 29, 2003

ART UNIT: 2626

TITLE: QUERY ENGINE FOR PROCESSING VOICE BASED QUERIES
INCLUDING SEMANTIC DECODING

* * *

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following brief comments.

In the Statement, the Examiner refers repeatedly to the specification, by way of the published patent application, in setting forth the reasons for allowance. Applicant agrees that the claims are allowable, but respectfully submits that the claims stand on their own merits, and that features and limitations from the specification should not be read into the claims. Therefore, to the extent that the Examiner has referred to and relied on the specification, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's reasons for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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